

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03722 262249Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CEQ-01 EPA-01 IO-13

NSF-01 /146 W

-----077314 262255Z /64

P 262228Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8193

INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: BEAUFORT SEA DRILLING: WATER FLOW AT KAGLULIK WELL.

1. DOME PETROLEUM HAS REPORTED FLOW OF FRESH WATER AT DEPTH OF 1910 FEET IN KAGLULIK WELL BEING DRILLED IN BEAUFORT SEA. IT IS SUSPECTED PROBLEM CAUSED BY DAMAGE TO WELLHEAD WHICH OCCURRED WHEN DRILL SHIP WAS BEING FORCED TO WITHDRAW BECAUSE OF RAPID MOVEMENT OF ICE SHEET. FLOW OF WATER FIRST NOTICED JULY 15. ICE FLOES, BREAKING LOOSE FROM THE SHORE AND DRIFTING IN VICINITY OF WELL SITE, ARE REPORTED TO BE RESULT OF LATE SPRING BREAKUP.

2. ACCORDING TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL (ALAN BOWKER, USA DIV) THE WATER FLOW IS NOT A SERIOUS SITUATION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL VIEW AND NO DIFFICULTY IS FORESEEN IN CLOSING THE FLOW. BOWKER SAID DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS (DINA) TEAM INCLUDING DIVERS, ARE AT SITE INVESTIGATING INCIDENT AND PROMISED PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH COPY OF DINA REPORT.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03722 262249Z

3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF INTERNAL DINA MEMO REPORTING INCIDENT WHICH WAS PROVIDED EMBOFF BY BOWKER ALONG WITH WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORT NO 1 (REPORTED SEPARATELY): BEGIN TEXT. JULY 18, 1978. DR. JAMES P. HEA, A/DIRECTOR, NORTHERN NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES BRANCH. DOME KAGLULIK A-75, D.A. 882. RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM D. WHITEHEAD

AT 10:00 A.M. JULY 17, 1978 INFORMING US THAT THE CAPTIONED WELL COMMENCED TO FLOW WATER WHILE DRILLING AT A DEPTH OF 1911 FEET (R.T.). THE WATER FLOW WAS FIRST NOTICED AT 10:30 HOURS JULY 15, 1978 WHILE USING 11.9 LBS./GAL. MUD IN THE HOLE AND THE FLOW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY KILLED AT 1800 HRS. JULY 15, 1978 BY PUMPING 550 BBLs. OF 12.0 LBS./GAL. MUD FOLLOWED BY A BARITE PLUG. CIRCULATED AND CONDITIONED MUD BUT WELL COMMENCED TO FLOW AGAIN ON JULY 16, 1978 AT 1200 HOURS WITH A RATE OF 8 BBLs./MIN. PUMPED ANOTHER BARITE PLUG BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN KILLING THE WELL.

CALLED CANMAR IN CALGARY AT 11:00 A.M. AND TALKED TO M. TODD WHO STATED THAT THE WATER FLOW WAS KILLED ON JULY 17, 1978. PURSUANT TO THE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO STOP THE WATER FLOW, AS MENTIONED ABOVE, THE WELL WAS CIRCULATED TO SEA WATER AND THE FLOW WAS CHECKED AT A RATE OF 16 TO 23 BBLs./MIN. A SAMPLE WAS COLLECTED AND ANALYSES WHICH INDICATED THAT THE FLOW WAS FRESH WATER. RAN A BARITE PLUG FOLLOWED BY A 50 BBLs. CEMENT PLUG WHICH KILLED THE WATER FLOW.

DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OPERATIONS ANTICIPATED AT THIS WELL WITH CANMAR. DR. HEA EXPLAINED DIAND INTERPRETATION OF SEISMIC AND GEOLOGICAL DATA AVAILABLE ON THIS LOCATION. CANMAR STATED THAT THEY ARE THINKING OF SETTING A 16 INCH CASING STRING AT PLUS OR MINUS 3000 FEET (R.T.) AND DR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03722 262249Z

HEA INFORMED THEM THAT THE LITHOLOGY OF THE SECTION BEING DRILLED NOW IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TILL PLUS OR MINUS 4500 FEET (R.T.) WITH A POSSIBILITY OF WATER FLOW EXISTING TO PLUS OR MINUS 4000 FEET (R.T.) AND, THEREFORE, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT SETTING ANOTHER STRING OF CASING WOULD OVERCOME THE PROBLEM.

IT WAS SUGGESTED INSTEAD TO CANMAR THAT THEY DRILL AS FAST AS POSSIBLE TO PLUS OR MINUS 4500 FEET AND SET THE CASING AT THAT POINT.

CLOSE MONITORING OF THE OPERATION ON THIS WELL IS MAINTAINED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY COMPLICATIONS. M.K. EL-DEFRAWY, HEAD, DRILLING AND COMPLETION ENGINEERING SECTION, OIL & GAS ENGINEERING DIVISION. END OF TEXT. DUEMLING

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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